

REMARKS

By the *Office Action* of 4 May 2004, Claims 1-6 are pending in the Application, Claims 1-5 rejected, and Claim 6 objected to. By the present *Response And Amendment*, the Applicant amends Claims 3 and 6, cancels Claims 1-2 and 4-5, and provides new Claims 7-17, and in so doing, believes the rejection of the Claims in view of the cited art is overcome.

1. Pending Claims

Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled.

Claim 3 is amended to depend from Claim 6.

Claims 4 and 5 are cancelled.

Claim 6 is rewritten into independent form, including the limitations of the base Claim and the intervening Claims.

Claim 7 is new, and believed novel and non-obvious over the cited art, as the cited art fails to disclose, teach or suggest a chest protector having each of the raised impact surfaces with a downward-deflecting angled surface between upper and lower portions thereof.

Claims 8-17 are believed similarly novel and non-obvious over the cited art, as they each ultimately depend from Claim 7.

2. Rejection Of The Claims

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,182,299 to Chen. Claim 6 is objected to, but indicated as allowable if rewritten into independent form with the limitations of the base Claim, and any intervening Claims.

Claim 6 is rewritten into independent form, Claims 1, 2 and 4-5 cancelled, and Claim 3 amended to depend from Claim 6. Claims 3 and 6 are thus believed allowable.

Claim 7 is presented, and is believed novel and non-obvious over Chen, as Chen fails to disclose, teach or suggest a chest protector having each of the raised impact surfaces with a downward-deflecting angled surface between upper and lower portions thereof.

Claims 8-17 ultimately depend from Claim 7, and incorporate further limitations fully supported by the originally-filed *Specification*, and/or specific language from the originally-submitted Claims 1-6.

3. Fees

This *Response and Amendment* is being filed within six months of the *Office Action*, and more specifically within three months, thus no extension fees are believed due.

This *Response and Amendment* provides the application with less than twenty total Claims, two of which are independent, and thus no claim fees are believed due.

Nonetheless, should any further fees be due, authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is hereby expressly given.

CONCLUSION

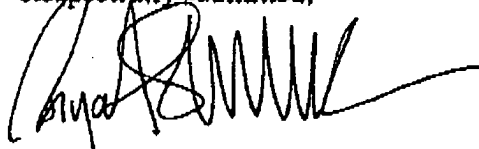
By the present *Response and Amendment*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.2773.

Certificate of Transmission:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at 703.872.9300, Mail Stop Amendment, in accordance with §1.5(d) on this date, and the correspondence includes a certificate for each piece of correspondence stating the date of transmission. The person signing the Certificate has a reasonable basis to expect that the correspondence would be transmitted on or before the date indicated.

Pamela G. Mashburn
Name of Applicant, Assignee, or
Registered Representative
Pamela G. Mashburn
Signature
4 August 2004
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Schneider
Registration No. 45,083

Troutman Sanders LLP
Bank of America Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
United States
Phone: 404.885.2773
Fax: 404.962.6849